

REMARKS

Claims 4-10, 17, 32, 38, 47 and 48 are pending following the above amendments to the claims. The amended claims are now directed to core protein sequences.

In response to the request by the Examiner that Applicants elect one polypeptide species represented by two SEQ ID NOs: (nucleic acid sequence and encoded polypeptide) for prosecution on the merits, Applicants elect the nucleotide sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 154 and the amino acid sequence found in SEQ ID NO: 206. These sequences are from the HK2 isolate of HCV, which belongs to genotype 6a. The claims which read on these sequences are 4-10, 17, 32, 38, 47 and 48.

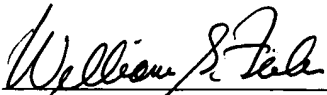
In making this election it is noted that the Examiner stated that claim 2 was a generic claim. However, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is also a generic claim under which the elected species are to be considered.

It is understood that upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to additional species which are in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 11, 1999

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